



EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 1-31-07  
HB HB 483

House Transportation Committee  
Chairman Jon Sonja

January 30, 2007

Subject: HB 483

Dear Committee Chairman & Members,

The Treasure State Alliance is a newly formed umbrella organization for Montana's recreational community. Currently our cooperating organizations are:

American Watercraft Association  
Citizens for Balanced Use  
Families for Outdoor Recreation  
Montana 4X4 Association  
Montanans for Multiple Use  
Montana Snowmobile Association  
Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association  
Safari Club International Great Falls Chapter

And have received official support from:  
Blue Ribbon Coalition

I am writing in opposition to HB 483. This Bill is an indirect approach to remove motorcycles, ATVs and other equipment from Montana Highways. The definition of "highway" in MT law includes any "way upon which the public can travel". This would do away with all use of all trails, even some on private land that are currently open to the public. It would do away with riding on USFS and BLM roads. It would do away with ranchers riding down the shoulder of a roadway to another field.

This would also affect agricultural equipment from being driven from field to field due to these tires not having the DOT approval on this type of tire as well. Our current law enforcement may choose not to enforce this but the fact will remain that it will be illegal to operate these types of tires on Montana Highways.

Many of the Forest Service and BLM trails are looped by using one of their roads for a short distance. HB-483 would eliminate the ability to create these popular loop systems and make it illegal for a hunter to use his ATV on a Forest Service, BLM or county road during hunting season. It would also make it illegal for ranchers, farmers and rural citizens to utilize their ATV, Trials or dual sport motorcycle or any of these types of motorized vehicle in maintaining their properties and accomplishing daily tasks.

HB-483 is completely inappropriate for the rural life style of Montana. It will have a negative impact on the economy in reducing recreational opportunities for the OHV enthusiasts. The negative economic consequences would impact the Montana communities that can least afford it. This would be our rural communities that depend on recreation, hunting and agriculture for a significant percentage of their Gross Product.

HB-483 is a bad bill for Montanans and we request a no vote.

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